

only one species. This has been correctly designated by H. St. John (1937) as *G. strigosius* since the name *G. strigosum* is pre-occupied.

A few specimens of *G. strigosius* have been collected in northern California. One of these (Davis Creek, Mrs. R. M. Austin, Aug. 1894), determined and distributed by E. L. Greene, was labelled by Greene with a manuscript name which was never published. Another of these Californian specimens is from the Warner Mts., Modoc Co. (Mrs. M. H. Manning 42), which is the type locality for *G. attenuilobum*. These two species are closely related and are distinguished mainly by the attenuately lobed upper leaves and the usually abundantly pilose petals of *G. attenuilobum*.

(To be continued)

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A FLORA OF ARIZONA.—This work<sup>1</sup>, so long in preparation, is the thorough and scholarly treatment which the reputations of the authors and their twenty-four collaborators would lead one to expect. On the physical side, it is well-printed, the type being rather large and clear, not overly bulky despite its great length, and inexpensive. In addition to the floristic treatment, it contains a brief survey of botanical exploration in Arizona, the geographical relationships of the flora, an illuminating discussion of the vegetation (by Forrest Shreve), and a bibliography dealing with the vegetation and "uses and popular interest." There are, too, a frontispiece and twenty-nine plates (reproduced from photographs), showing vegetation types and interesting species. Nine of these plates are devoted to cacti, and, together with the keys to the genera of that family, these might well be of interest to eastern, as well as western, cactus-fanciers. Interesting as these adjuncts are, however, it is naturally the treatment of the flora (about 3200 species) which must be primarily considered.

In the first place, there are a few minor points of criticism (and they are minor) which are worth making, in anticipation of a reissue or a second edition. It would be of considerable assistance if family names could be used as running-heads to the pages. The family name *Saxifragaceae* is omitted at the beginning of the family treatment. *Iris arizonica* Dykes, described from living plants grown from seed taken from an Arizona collection, probably Blumer, no. 1556, is omitted, even from synonymy. Two genera, *Frasera* and *Swertia*, are maintained as distinct, although this might well have been changed had St. John's treatment of the two as *Swertia* appeared before this book went to press. The correct name for *Cuphea ignea* (p. 620) is *C. platycentra* Lem.

<sup>1</sup> *Flowering Plants and Ferns of Arizona* by T. H. KEARNEY AND R. H. PEEBLES AND COLLABORATORS. 1069 pp. U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Misc. Publ. no. 423. 1942. \$2.

On the other hand, the work seems complete, careful, and, for the most part, conservative, this last characteristic being well shown in the treatment of *Gilia*. There has been no undue slaughter of species, and there is a willingness to recognize varieties generously. Attention has been paid throughout to economic values, especially to forage plants, and to ethnobotanical information. Since descriptions of species could not be included without greatly increasing the bulk (and the price), the keys to genera are highly detailed, and the distributional notes for the species are given more minutely than usual. One notes, too, with pleasure, the restoration of the *Oxalidaceae* to the flora of Arizona. In view of the differences in length, it would be rather unfair to draw comparisons between the contributions of the collaborators, but (possibly from a sense of personal relief), attention might be drawn to Dr. Blake's key to the groups of the *Compositae*, and keys to the genera within these groups. The former is drawn up without mention of style, stigma, or nature of the receptacle. In the latter keys, style- or stigma-characters appear to be used in only three instances; indeed, only once as the primary character in the heading. This must inevitably make the utilization of these keys easier and quicker, even for professional botanists. The ultimate test for such a volume is that of *use*. The writer and some colleagues have, on several occasions, made numerous determinations of Arizona material, with highly satisfactory results. The authors have reached the standards they set for themselves.—ROBERT C. FOSTER.

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ALCHEMILLA PRATENSIS IN ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK.—A flowering plant of extreme interest and rarity in North America has been added to the flora of western New York State. The species, *Alchemilla pratensis*, F. W. Schmidt, was discovered by me, growing in a long-neglected field near Lancaster, Erie County, New York.

This plant, naturalized from Europe where it is known as "Lady's Mantle," is abundantly naturalized in Nova Scotia, and has occasionally been reported as a local plant from Maine to eastern New York.

*Alchemilla pratensis* is an attractive non-typical member of the Rose family and of unusual botanical interest. Its flowers, having no petals, are made up of a small greenish cup-shaped calyx that is mainly 4-lobed and bears only 4 stamens. A more unrose-like blossom can hardly be imagined.

A fine specimen collected by me is now growing vigorously in Williamsville, N. Y., in the garden of Professor William P. Alexander, Curator Emeritus of Adult Education, Buffalo Museum of Science.—HEATHER G. THORPE, Buffalo Museum of Science.